

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01498 112305Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
-----112336Z 001896 /75

P 112243Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2766
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER AMCONSULS CANADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 01498

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: OTTAWA COMMENT ON LEVESQUE INAUGURAL ADDRESS

REF: A) OTTAWA 1461; B) OTTAWA 1436; C) QUEBEC 0104

1. IN CONTRAST TO AMPLE MEDIA ATTENTION TO PREMIER LEVESQUE'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS (REF A), OFFICIAL OTTAWA COMMENT, FROM LIBERAL GOVERNMENT OR OPPOSITION SOURCES, HAS BEEN MARKEDLY SPARSE.

2. ONLY COMMONS MENTION OF ADDRESS WAS IN SHORT MARCH 9 EXCHANGE BETWEEN NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) LEADER ED BROADBENT AND PM TRUDEAU. NOTING LEVESQUE'S STATED INTENTION TO DEAL IMMEDIATELY WITH QUEBEC'S "BRUTAL UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS" AND HIS DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THIS AREA, BROADBENT ASKED TRUDEAU IF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT READY TO PICK UP THE OFFER. TRUDEAU RESPONDED ARCHLY THAT "I HAVE NOT BEEN APPRISED YET OF PREMIER LEVESQUE'S SPEECH" BUT THEN ADDED THAT "IF PREMIER LEVESQUE IS DISPOSED TO CO-OPERATE WITH US IN THIS MATTER OR ANY OTHER MATTER WHICH IS FOR THE WELFARE OF THE INHABITANTS OF QUEBEC WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO CO-OPERATE".

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01498 112305Z

3. ONLY OTHER COMMENT FROM PROMINENT POLITICAL FIGURE HAS BEEN FROM FINANCE MINISTER MACDONALD WHO NOTED, REPORTEDLY BOTH AT NEW YORK PRESS CONFERENCE AND ON NATIONWIDE CANADIAN RADIO TALK SHOW, THAT SPEECH SEEMED TO BE REFLECTION OF PRE-ELECTION PARTI QUEBECOIS (PQ) CAMPAIGN WITH EMPHASIS ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND NOT ON SEPARATISM.

ACCORDING TO CANADIAN PRESS (CP) REPORT OF NEW YORK REMARKS, MACDONALD SAID, "IT SEEMED TO ME IN SOME WAYS THAT THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE THAT HE PRESENTED YESTERDAY WAS MORE CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION THAT HE HAD TAKEN DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN THAT HE WAS REALLY NOT RUNNING ON A SEPARATION TICKET, BUT ON A GOOD GOVERNMENT TICKET,...IT STRUCK ME THAT HE WAS STEPPING BACK FROM THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE; BACK TO THE CONCEPTION OF BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR QUEBEC."

4. COMMENT: OFFICIAL COMMENT ON LEVESQUE'S SPEECH WAS NOTICEABLE CHIEFLY BY ITS ABSENCE. REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERAL PARTY, AND OFFICES OF PRIME MINISTER AND PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE LEADER JOE CLARK OFFERED EMBOFFS FOLLOWING EXPLANATIONS. ALL AGREED ON TWO BASIC REASONS. FIRST, SPEECH DID NOT CONTAIN ANY "NEW REVELATIONS". IN SHORT, MACDONALD THESIS IS CORRECT THAT SPEECH STRESSED PRACTICAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND AVOIDED SEPARATIST RHETORIC (AS WELL AS ANY OTHER DIRECT CHALLENGES TO FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONSHIP). NO COMPELLING REASON, THEREFORE, FOR FEDERALISTS - LIBERALS AND DC ALIKE - TO COMMENT AND GIVE THEREBY EVEN MORE MEDIA COVERAGE TO LEVESQUE AND PQ. SECOND, POLITICAL FIGURES IN OTTAWA HAVE BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH RECENT, DRAMATIC TURNAROUND IN POLLS OF LIBERAL PARTY'S AND TRUDEAU'S FORTUNES, AND WITH POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS DEVELOPMENT (REF B). IN LATTER REGARD, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION AS TO WHETHER TRUDEAU WOULD CALL EARLY NATIONAL ELECTION IN JUNE. AT MARCH 10 PRESS CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, TRUDEAU VIRTUALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01498 112305Z

SHUT THE DOOR ON THIS PROSPECT. ENDERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SPEECHES, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA01498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770085-0192
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770369/aaaacimt.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 35c6bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OTTAWA 1461, 77 OTTAWA 1436, 77 QUEBEC 104
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3135535
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OTTAWA COMMENT ON LEVESQUE INAUGURAL ADDRESS
TAGS: PINT, CA, (LEVESQUE, RENE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/35c6bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009